

The Emergency Psychiatry Nursing Assessment Report Framework: A Computer Program to Assist in Preparing Reports

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Abstract

EP Nurse is designed to guide the nurse through the interview and reporting process, and to produce a complete or nearly complete report of the nursing evaluation in emergency psychiatry. EP Nurse allows the nurse to produce a report in five to 10 minutes, accepting keyboard input for free-form text, and mouse clicks for selecting from lists of choices. Input includes identifying information, presenting complaints, substance use history, medical history and vitals, psychiatric medications, treatment history, history of mental illness, last hospitalization, family history of mental illness, nursing diagnosis, and nursing intervention. Written and on-line help and training were included to facilitate learning. The program includes an

editor, based on HighEdit, which allows the nurse to review and modify the report prior to printing, and supports various fonts. Optionally, the nurse may save the report in ASCII format and load it into another word processor before editing or printing. We believe that EP Nurse reduces both errors of omission and errors of commission, and improves documentation in the medical record.

EP Nurse is intended to be used by licensed nurses familiar with the nursing assessment in emergency psychiatry. It is suitable for adult patients. EP Nurse requires MS Windows and nearly a megabyte of disk space for the program, runtime module, and help file.